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THE END OF COMBAT OPERATIONS IN IRAQ

ISSUE-IN-FOCUS: SEPTEMBER 2, 2010

"The United States has ended its seven-and-a-half-year-old military operation in Iraq and is shifting to a civilian-led mission to build a partnership with Iraq that will strengthen its government, industry and people."

-- [Remarks by the President in Address to the Nation on the End of Combat Operations in Iraq, August 31, 2010](#)

On August 31, 2010, during his address to the nation, President Barack Obama fulfilled his promise when he took office in 2009 by announcing the end of American combat operations in Iraq.

Ending the combat mission in Iraq is an historic moment for the United States. While U.S. troops draw down, dedicated American civilians, such as diplomats, aid workers and advisors, will begin their work to support the Iraqi government.

President Obama on End of U.S. Combat Mission in Iraq - "This was my pledge to the



American people as a candidate for this office. Last February, I announced a plan that would bring our combat brigades out of Iraq, while redoubling our efforts to strengthen Iraq's Security Forces and support its government and people. That's what we've done. We've removed nearly 100,000 U.S. troops from Iraq. We've closed or transferred to the Iraqis hundreds of bases. And we have moved millions of pieces of equipment out of Iraq." [Read the transcript](#) || Watch the full video: [mp4](#) (171MB) | [mp3](#) (17MB)

U.S. Shifts from Military to Civilian-Led Mission in Iraq - Obama pledged on February 27, 2009, to end America's combat mission in Iraq, shrink the number of U.S. forces, strengthen Iraq's forces and support Iraq's government. Under the terms of a security agreement signed between the United States and Iraq, all U.S. military personnel must leave Iraq by the end of 2011. In June 2009 U.S. forces withdrew from Iraqi cities. Subsequent missions were at the request of the Iraqi government and were carried out with Iraqi security forces. Read more [here](#).



Final U.S. Combat Brigade Leaves Iraq - As the last U.S. combat brigade rolled out of Iraq August 19 ending a seven-year military operation that toppled the regime of Saddam Hussein, the focus of the U.S. mission shifted to training and supporting Iraqi security forces. Read more [here](#).

Facts and Figures on Troop Drawdown in Iraq - When President Obama took office in January 2009, there were 144,000 U.S. troops in Iraq. At his Camp Lejeune speech on February 27, 2009, President Obama announced that the United States would end its combat mission on August 31, 2010, and retain a transitional force of up to 50,000 U.S. troops to train and advise Iraqi Security Forces; conduct partnered and targeted counter-terrorism operations; and protect ongoing U.S. civilian and military efforts. Read more [here](#).

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